



May 27, 2022

Dear Entering Medical Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Connecticut's School of Medicine. As an incoming medical student, we want to make you aware of ***2-year enrichment opportunity available to students that include didactic, experiential, and longitudinal training focused on the medical management of the underserved.***

The University of Connecticut's Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, and Quinnipiac University's Physician Assistant Program, in collaboration with the Connecticut Area Health Education Center ([CT AHEC](#)), sponsor a program whose focus is care for the urban underserved. Known as the Urban Service Track/AHEC Scholars Program, this ***innovative program maximizes interdisciplinary training and learning opportunities that focus on issues specific to urban communities and vulnerable populations.***

Over its 16 years of operation, the ***Urban Service Track*** has engaged more than 800 health professions students. Students selected to participate from the six schools are designated as Urban Health/AHEC Scholars and are expected to participate in a variety of educational activities that ***complement the medical school curriculum.*** Because the curriculum for each of the schools is very demanding, we have been careful to plan learning retreats and educational activities with exam schedules and curricular demands in mind.

Typical training activities for new Urban Health/AHEC Scholars include a welcome reception and orientation, a Clinical Skills Boot Camp Simulation Lab, 4 learning retreats to be held on Friday afternoons, SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) training and Clinical Assessment with standardized patients, involvement in [National Primary Care Week](#) activities, participation in student-centered and run monthly [UST Interest Groups \(IGs\)](#) and [on-line modules](#) addressing tools critical for today's health professional. In addition to these didactic and clinical opportunities, students are required to participate in [community outreach activities](#) (two each semester) sponsored by CT AHEC.

In regards to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, CT AHEC follows the same rules/guidance as the University and state. To that end, with low positivity rates, we plan to offer in-person training/activities for vaccinated students. Students/faculty/staff will adhere to the University's policy of being masked at all times. Each student is expected to provide their own face mask. Should positivity rates increase, the program will follow University guidance on moving to hybrid and/or virtual programming. Our number one goal is to keep students, staff, faculty, patients, and community members safe.

UST graduates credit the program with providing them with unique and valuable tools and experiences. After completion of the formal two-year curriculum, many students stay connected with the program serving as mentors, coaches, and small group facilitators which adds to the richness of the UST/AS Learning Community.

Recent graduates have reflected on their experiences with UST. One example from an MS-IV:

“Being a part of UST has been a wonderful and transformative experience. It has not only presented me with numerous opportunities to provide direct care to underserved populations, but it has also taught me to do so in a more culturally sensitive and compassionate way. I will never forget my time spent as an Urban Health Scholar and will forever carry all these valuable UST lessons with me into the world of patient-centered care.”

If you are interested in being part of special learning community focused on primary care, interprofessional collaborative practice and working with urban underserved patient populations, we invite you to complete the on-line application by July 1, 2022 ([how to apply](#)). Individuals with completed applications will be extended a virtual interview to learn more about their interests and background. Students will be notified of their application status by August 15, 2022.

Sincerely,



Petra Clark-Dufner, MA
Director, CT AHEC



Thomas Regan, MD
Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

P.S.

Check out this slideshow, which reviews UST/AHEC Scholars curriculum components.



Click [here](#) if the QR code doesn't work on your device.